

Laurel Hill Update

**By the Laurel Hill Project Advisory
Citizens Oversight Committee**

September 2005

The Laurel Hill Project Advisory Citizens Oversight Committee was established by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors in February 2005 to monitor the development of the Reformatory and Penitentiary area at Laurel Hill, adjacent to Silverbrook Road in Lorton, VA.



This committee-sponsored electronic newsletter is provided to keep citizens informed about adaptive reuse and other developments at Laurel Hill.

Laurel Hill Golf Course to Open Soon!

The Fairfax County Park Authority staff reports that a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Laurel Hill golf course is scheduled for October 15. The course will be open for public play on October 16. The Park Authority will provide more information about the opening of the golf course later this week.

Please check the *Laurel Hill News* section of this newsletter for the dates of other meetings and events.

September 14 Oversight Committee Meeting

Request for Proposal

The Oversight Committee voted to recommend that the Fairfax County government move forward with the Request For Proposal process. This follows additional input from some of the 16 respondents to the Request For Expression of Interest.

The Request for Proposal (RFP) process, which requires more detailed planning and financial information from potential candidates, is scheduled to begin this fall.

Irma Clifton, the president of the Lorton Heritage Society, attended the September 14 Oversight Committee meeting. She noted that under the terms of the Memorandum of Agreement in the deed of transfer, the Fairfax County Architectural Review Board, the Virginia Department of Historic Resources and the Lorton Heritage Society are granted 30 calendar days prior to the release of any Requests for Proposal to review and comment on the proposed RFP.

Amendment to the Memorandum of Agreement – Status Report

At the September 14 Oversight Committee meeting, Ms. Clifton, the president of the Lorton Heritage Society, noted that the LHS had voted in July not to approve the proposed amendment to the Memorandum of Agreement. The amendment would include the Laurel Hill Project Advisory Citizens Oversight Committee as a participant in the development of adaptive reuse strategies in the area designated as eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

The proposed amendment is a recommendation of the Laurel Hill Adaptive Reuse Citizens Task Force and was accepted by the Board of Supervisors on December 6, 2004.

An amendment to the MOA requires the approval of all 9 signatories. The Oversight Committee is planning further discussions with members of the Lorton Heritage Society.

Fairfax County Planning Commission Hearing – Laurel Hill Park Plan

The Oversight Committee voted to approve the Fairfax County Park Authority's Laurel Hill Park plan, following a review of the plan as it relates to the adaptive reuse areas. The Oversight Committee will draft a letter or written testimony for the Planning Commission's October 6, 2005 hearing about the plan.

National Register of Historic Places Nomination

The Oversight Committee has drafted a list of observations regarding the proposed nomination of the 512-acre district at Laurel Hill to the National Register of Historic Places.

The observations are available online at:

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/laurelhill/projectadvisory/observations.pdf>

The Oversight Committee will review and adopt recommendations regarding the National Register nomination at the October 4 committee meeting.

Architectural Review Board Draft Standards and Guidelines

The Oversight Committee was informed that the Department of Planning and Zoning is working to complete the draft standards and guidelines for use by the Architectural Review Board when reviewing undertakings within the historic district at Laurel Hill. The standards and guidelines would cover adaptive reuse, new construction, signage, and landscaping features.

In its recommendations to the Board of Supervisors in December 2004, the Laurel Hill Adaptive Reuse Citizens Task Force recommended completion of the standards and guidelines.

Project Manager for the Reformatory and Penitentiary Area

Interviews for the project manager position are proceeding. The Department of Planning and Zoning, in concert with the Oversight Committee, is considering the possible use of consultant services for the position.

Next Oversight Committee Meeting – October 4

The next meeting of the Oversight Committee will be 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 4, Conference Room 7, at the Fairfax County Government Center.

Laurel Hill News

Here is a list of upcoming meetings and events related to Laurel Hill:

September 22, 2005

- **Narrated bus tour** of the Laurel Hill National Register nomination area beginning promptly at 5:30 p.m. The bus will leave from the [South County Secondary School](#) flag pole area, 8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton. This tour is for those who have not yet toured Laurel Hill, and will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. To get on the reservation list for this tour, please call 703-324-1101.
- **Community meeting** sponsored by Mt. Vernon Supervisor Gerry Hyland to discuss the National Register nomination. Meeting to start at 7:30 p.m., [South County Secondary School](#) Auditorium.

October 6, 2005: The Fairfax County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing at the Government Center to review the Fairfax County Park Authority's master plan for Laurel Hill Park.

October 15, 2005: Laurel Hill golf course ribbon-cutting ceremony.

October 16, 2005: Laurel Hill golf course opens for public play.

October 17, 2005: The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing about the National Register nomination. The hearing will start at 4:30 p.m., at the Fairfax County Government Center.

October 25, 2005: The Virginia Department of Historic Resources will provide an opportunity for public input about the National Register nomination during a meeting at the Fairfax County Government Center in Conference Rooms 4 and 5. The meeting will start at 7:00 p.m.

The Oversight Committee's next electronic newsletter will be published in October.

Additional information about the land use plans for Laurel Hill, including parkland and adaptive reuse areas are available at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/laurelhill/